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"LABYRINTH LARKER IN SENE VOLUBILIS EYER."—Hof.

Our lives are like the ceaseless flow
Of rivers to the mighty sea;

Swift hurrying past each scene, they go
To mingle with Eternity.

And man is like some bark that bark,
By the restless current borne

To that dread ocean from whose dark
And untold borders none return.

Of all the myriads, that before
Have gone its countless hosts to swell,

Not one has from that tideless shore
Come back their history to tell!

The stream rolls on—but where are those
It bore but yesterday? the wept—

The loved—their freight of joys, or woes?
Oblivion's wave o'er all has swept!

Our life but a vapor dark,
A morning mist, that skyward borne

Is seen no more—A meteor spark,
One moment flashing bright—and gone;

The vapour fades—even while we gaze,
It melts into the viewless air;

The transient meteor's dazzling blaze,
But makes the gloom it leaves more drear.

Though youth's bright sun, with rainbow light
May arch the distant future o'er;

'Tis early shrouded from our sight
By manhood's clouds—to shine no more.

'Mid mournful memories—hopes betrayed,
And vain regrets, our days are passed,

Till in Earth's sheltering bosom laid,
Forgetfulness is won at last!

Our life is like the desert bleak,
Wide spread o'er Africa's burning soil—

We wander through it faint and weak,
Harrassed by want and worn with toil;

If while some freely tread a spot
Amid the arid waste appears,

Where loveliness is ne'er forgot,
How soon its veil by grief and tears.

We strive—for what? to build a name
O'er which the sands of Time will creep

And leave no trace for empty fame—
For triumph, where we ought to weep!

As the "mirage" whose treacherous ray
But mocks the traveller's straining eye,

Even Love and Hope soon pass away
And leaves us thirsting, faint—to die.

Life's springtime lures are sweet, but brief—
Their Eden beauties early gone;

And age steals on with autumn leaf,
Sad, senseless, desolate and lone.

Though haply when their mates are dead,
Some few pale fading flowers wave—

Thence is the mournful fragrance, shed
From roses blooming round the grave.

Oh! who to linger here can feel
A wish, condemned with bosom torn

Reside the shattered wreck to kneel,
Of all he loved, and vainly mourn—

When, heir of sorrow from his birth,
To man this blessed hope is given—

Though doomed to strife and toil on earth,
There's rest and peace, and joy—in Heaven.

From the Boston Herald

LETTERS ABOUT OUR OWN COUNTRY.

BY ROBERT GRANT.

The State of Maine abounds in incident, ro-

mance, and picturesque beauty. Much has

been laid before the public concerning her

interior, while the sea-board has been quite

neglected. Most of the large towns are

situated from twenty to six miles from the sea, and

being the centre of business, have attracted the

greatest share of attention. These towns have

been settled but a few years, but the capes and

islands of the Eastern coast were colonized by

the French, at a period coeval with the settle-

ment of the oldest States. There are some

traditions and peculiarities attached to the is-

lands on the coast of Maine, which are very in-

teresting; some of them would form, without

the aid of fiction, good incident for romance.

Poetry could here gather from the story of

persecution and suffering; and the sublime scenery

of the ocean, forest, mountain and lake, by

which it is accompanied, would furnish material

worthy the pen of a Scott.

It is with no ordinary emotion that the

speculator, standing on the summit of Bald Mountain

on the Island of Mount Desert, can look around

upon the scene below, abounding in sublime ob-

jects and interesting points, celebrated in the

traditions of the country. On the South, just

where the seals through the low land at the side

of the long range of mountains—which extends

fifteen miles, the whole length of the island, and

runs to the ocean like a clear river, for nine

miles through the overhanging cliffs to the

beautiful inland bay that lies on the North of

the mountain—you may see, there, the beau-

tiful point where the French Jesuits settled their

infant colony in the wilderness, two hundred

years ago. On the North, the narrow which

separate the island from the main land are seen

like a silvery belt beneath your feet, shooting

up into little creeks and harbors, and uniting the

waters of Frenchman's and Penobscot Bays.

On a beautiful point, formed by one of those
creeks in the narrows, the eccentric and bril-

liant Madame De Lowelle, banished from the

court of Louis XVI. by the French revolution

built the charming residence which was the re-

sort, for a time, of the exiled nobles who had

escaped the guillotine, and the vengeance of

Robespierre. Here the celebrated Tulleyrand

resided for a long time during his sojourn in

the United States, pleased to find, amid the

wilderness scenery of an American forest, all the

gaiety and elegance of the French court. On

the East, the picturesque shores of the Goul-

boro' extend towards the sea from the bay,

studded with islands, and foaming at its en-

trance amid the long line of the Porcupine ledg-

es. Here the Indians of the Penobscot tribe

built their wigwams in the Summer, and from

the evidences daily appearing, they must at one

time have been a large and powerful nation.

Immense beds of clam shells, six or eight feet in

depth, stone axes, and house utensils, are dis-

covered upon the shore and islands in that vi-

ciuity, in abundance. In fact a more beautiful

scene than is presented from almost any point

on this shore, cannot be found on our

coast; the mountains, the sea, and bay with its

picturesque islands the rowing breakers, and

the quiet inlet—might well charm the grandeur-

loving son of the forest, when the choice of his

residence is only influenced by the facility for

procuring game, and the beauty of its situation.

Two hundred years ago the smoke of a thou-

sand wigwams curled from these shores, and a

thousand canoes chased the seal and porpoise

among the sinuous windings of the capes and

the estuaries of this majestic bay. Now a wan-

dering Indian may sometimes be seen stealing

round the coast, or a few huts be thrown up

on some solitary point. But the Indian's day

has passed; they are fading like the exhalations

of night before the bright sun of civilization.

On the West the Penobscot Bay ap-

pears, gemmed with islands stretching out to

the South, the last line bounded on the sea by

the dark hills of the Isle of Haut. The su-

gar-loaf peak of Bluehill is seen on the West-

ern horizon, and Kennebec Mountain, and the

highlands of Cape Bosier stretch down to the

South West, and appear to mingle with the blue

ridge of the Camden Hills, on the opposite of

Penobscot Bay. Thousands of islands dot in

every direction the surface of the ocean; in the

beautiful group of the Piacentia, where the Je-

suits had a large settlement, lie just under the

shadow of the mountain, and the bare ledge of

the Mt. Desert rock is seen in the dim distance

like a speck hanging between the sea and sky.

On the North West, the windings of the Pe-

nobscot River may be traced to the City of

Bangor, which is partly concealed by the inter-

vening hills. Ellsworth is seen on the North,

at the head of the beautiful Union River Bay.

Bluehill mountain hangs like a scroll over the

town to which it gives a name; and the White

Hills like clouds far in the West, and the lofty

Katahdin on the North West, form an outline

on the horizon, of objects each in themselves

embodying incidents worthy the undivided de-

lineations of the most graphic pen. I need not

here describe the sweet little town of Castine,

concealed as it is from the view by the invisi-

ble and picturesque village of Bucksport, lying

on the banks of the Penobscot, and embosomed

in the hills which extend along the shores

from Castine to Bangor. These are a few of

the interesting objects discovered from the sum-

mit of the mountains of Mount Desert. The

island itself on which they are situated, is well

worthy the attention of the curious. It is the

second in point of size in the United States,

Long Island in the State of New York being the

largest. It contains vast quantities of the rich-

est iron ore, immense ledges of the finest gran-

ite, large quarries of marble, and a variety of

valuable minerals. On its shores are several

of the finest harbors in the world, and its beau-

tiful sounds can be made one of the most effec-

tive safeguards of our coast, in case of invasion.

The thousand and one islands that are scat-

tered in the adjacent bays, like a brood of chick-

ens around the parent hen, give a beautiful

and picturesque effect to the outline of the coast,

forming a fine contrast with its rock-lined shores

foaming breakers and lofty mountains.

These islands are great nurseries of seamen,

as almost every man is a sailor from the time

he can pull a rope or a fish line, until he is in-

capable of navigating a vessel from old age.

At one period they were a favorite resort for

pirates and smugglers. A Spanish pirate was

recked on one of the Dark Islands, about twenty

years since, with a valuable cargo on board.

The captain and mate gave a fisherman his boat

full of the richest silks, to carry them into the

British provinces—and for several years after

the island beauties were unrivalled in their

satins and brocades. The money-hunting man-

ia prevailed to a great extent among these is-

lands, from the supposition that the pirates had

concealed treasures on the shores. Small par-

ties from the main land would start off secre-

tly in the night, headed by some gifted indi-

vidual who possessed the power of guiding the

witch-lazel—and following the delusions of a

dream, build a camp upon some point, trace

out the mysterious spot with the witch-inspired

wand, and commence their mining operations.

Some men would persevere in their search un-

til frightened away by their excited fancies,

which conjured up hobgoblins and vengeful

demons, in every motion or sound that distur-

bed their midnight labors. Others, more hardy,

pressed forward in defiance of 'sights and

sounds portentous,' until they became exhaust-

ed, and retired to await a more favorable re-

velation. A laughable adventure at length suc-

cessfully arrested the course of the delusion.

A party of treasure hunters had scooped out

several large caves on Harbor Island, one of the

outer Islands in Frenchman's Bay, and formed

a regular establishment there, for the purpose

of discovering the hidden chest, which the ne-

cromantic wand indicated as being concealed in

that quarter. A wag who resided on Mount

Desert, hearing of the proceeding, sailed off to

the island one afternoon, and concealed himself

on the shore until midnight; he then stole soft-

ly to the camp, and gently removing the door,

lifted him with a naturally ugly countenance,

which he had improved by the addition of a

pair of ram's horns on his head, and a few

daubs of black and red paint on his face, to a

really hideous personification of his Satanic

Majesty. One of the men was sitting by the fire

keeping watch while the others slept. Sudden-

ly looking up, he beheld two fierce eyes glar-

ing from a countenance of such horrid import,

that he could not have conjured up a more

frightful vision in his most excited dreams.

Here was a reality; he knew it—he felt it.

There, the apparition—here, the money-dig-

ger; but he could not have wished for a closer

connection of one member of his body with an-

other, than this hideous countenance held with

his very being. The eyes seemed to thrill

through every nerve, and the face to incorpo-

rate itself with each fibre of his body, and par-

alyzing every faculty of life. After some time,

the money-digger, who had been a soldier in

the revolution, starting on his feet, cried out, 'In

the name of God, stand and deliver!'

This awakened his comrades, who, beholding the

apparition moving in at the door, gave a tremen-

dous scream, and breaking through the opposite

side of the camp, made for the boat followed

by the horrified sentinel. The night was dark,

and the winds adverse—but forty miles were

never passed with more expedition in a row

boat, under such circumstances, than these men

accomplished that night; the rising sun found

them at the head of Union River Bay, without

hats or shoes, bag or baggage. Their camp

equipage, however, was safely delivered to them

in the course of a few days, and the facts relat-

ing to their flight becoming known, it threw a

shade of ridicule over the treasure hunting de-

lusion; and the farce in which the Harbor Is-

land adventurer enacted so conspicuous a part,

entitled them to the well earned appellation of

'the last of the money-diggers.'

That money had ever been concealed on

these islands by pirates, is altogether improb-

able; but there is a tradition on Mt. Desert, re-

lating to the Jesuits, who were driven from their

quiet retirement at S. W. Harbor, on that Is-

land, which may have some foundation. These

priests bro't from France, at the time of their

settlement in this country, large quantities of

church plate. When expelled from Mt. De-

sert by the English they had this plate in their

possession—but it has never been discovered

by the most minute search after their departure;

and being in the depth of winter, it could not

have been sent away by sea at the time of the

invasion, or transported by the almost perished

The bill was ordered to lie on the table—7 to 10.

Order relative to an inquiry into the expediency of providing by law that in all cases of contested elections of Representatives, the towns in which the cases occur shall decide the same, was in definitely postponed.

Bill fixing the compensation of Superintending School Committees was taken up. [This bill provides that the Committee shall receive \$1. for each day's duty in examining Schools.] Mr. Morrow thought no benefit would result from the passage of this bill, and moved its indefinite postponement in concurrence with the House. Mr. Severance thought it a very good law and hoped the Senate would concur. Mr. Parinon spoke in favor of the bill. Mr. Talbot was opposed to the bill. In answer to the argument that the Committee were frequently subjected to the expense of hiring conveyance in visiting Schools, Mr. T. remarked that the gentlemen selected for these situations were generally men of leisure, and would very willingly ride out to visit the Schools without any compensation. Mr. Severance said that the gentlemen from Washington seemed to think that wealthy men and men of leisure were usually selected for the School Committee—but this was not the case—they were generally farmers and men of business, many of whom could ill afford to spend their time and incur the expenses which must necessarily be done, without any compensation.

Mr. Miller was opposed to the bill because he thought that the sum \$1 per day too small, and that those who were competent could not always be found to perform the duties required for that sum.

Mr. Benson was in favor of the bill. There was now a great want of uniformity in the several towns, some of them allowing \$2.00 per day to the School Committee, while others allowed nothing at all. The office of Superintending School Committee was one of great importance, and should be filled, not by men of leisure, but by active business men. The law requires that this Committee shall visit each School District in the town twice each year. In the town where he resided there were 11 School Districts, and according to the requirements of the law, the Committee were obliged to visit them 22 times during the year. This he considered rather too much to require of a man to perform without any compensation—he hoped the Senate would insist on the passage of the bill to be engrossed.

The motion to indefinitely postpone was decided in the negative, by a vote of 8 to 12.

On motion of Mr. Ide of Frankfort, the Committee on the Judiciary was directed to inquire into the expediency of providing by law that any person in y change his or her name by notifying previously the intention of so doing in the State paper and some paper printed in the County where he or she resides, and also leave a notice thereof with the Selectmen of the town where he or she resides.

Bill to constitute Ellsworth the Shire-town of Hancock County, was twice read and Monday next assigned.

Leave to withdraw on petition of Elijah Wood et al for an exemption of sheep from taxation—of William Walker et al. to be set off from Freeport to North Yarmouth.

Passed to be enacted, Bill authorizing the collection of interest on Executions.

Report on order in relation to Commissioner to examine Colleges, that legislation is inexpedient was accepted in concurrence.

The Senate accordingly insist upon the vote passing the bill to be engrossed.

Passed to be enacted—Bill to set off Sells Gilman from E. Pond Plantation to Norridge-work.

Finally passed—Bill providing for the appointment of a Public Agent to superintend certain expenditures.

Mr. Jarvis, from the Committee on Banks and Banking, reported, Bills—to incorporate the Damariscotta Bank—to incorporate the B. East Bank—to incorporate the Mechanics Bank in Bangor—to incorporate the Globe Bank in Bangor—to incorporate the Brunswick Bank—to incorporate the City Bank in Bangor—to increase the capital stock of the Stillwater Canal Bank—to increase the capital stock of the Cutlers' Bank in Augusta—to renew the charter of the Frontier Bank in Eastport—to increase the capital stock of the Bank of Cumberland in Portland—to increase the capital stock of the Augusta Bank—to incorporate the Sebago Bank in Portland—to incorporate the Penobscot Bank in Bangor—to incorporate the Lafayette Bank in Bangor—which bills were severally read once, and ordered to lie on the table.

CONGRESS.

MONDAY, Feb. 8, 1836.

In SENATE. A communication was received from the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund containing their report, and suggesting the discontinuance of their Board.

Mr. Wright presented a memorial from the Chamber of Commerce of New York, on the subject of relief to the sufferers by the late fire, which was laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Kent offered a resolution providing for an inquiry into the expediency of establishing a Navy Yard at Baltimore—lies on the table one day.

A resolution submitted by Mr. Benton, inquiring whether the mint was regularly and amply supplied with bullion, &c., was adopted.

The Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions offered by Mr. Benton, when Messrs. Clayton, White, Grundy and Benton addressed the Senate. Mr. Leigh laid the floor when an adjournment was moved and carried.

In the House, the rules were suspended, in

order to afford Mr. Pinkney an opportunity to submit the following resolution:—

Resolved, That all the memorials which have been offered or may hereafter be presented to this House, praying for the abolition of slavery in the District of Columbia, and also the resolutions offered by an honorable member from Maine, (Mr. Jarvis) with the amendment thereto, proposed by an honorable member from Virginia, (Mr. Wise,) and every other paper or proposition that may be submitted, in relation to this subject, be referred to a select committee with instructions to report.

That Congress possesses no constitutional authority to interfere, in any way, with the institution of slavery in any of the States of this Confederacy; and that, in the opinion of this House, Congress ought not to interfere, in any way, with slavery in the District of Columbia, because it would be a violation of the public faith, unwise, impolitic, and dangerous to the Union,—assigning such reasons for those conclusions as in the judgment of the committee, may be best calculated to enlighten the public mind, to repress agitation, to allay excitement, to sustain and preserve the just rights of the slave holding States, and of the people of this District, and to establish harmony and tranquility amongst the various sections of the Union.

After a short debate the previous question was called for and sustained. The third branch of the proposition was divided, on motion of Mr. Underwood, so as to present a separate question on the following clause, viz:—That in the opinion of this House, Congress ought not to interfere, in any way with slavery in the District of Columbia; and, the question being taken, it was determined in the affirmative, yeas 163, nays 57.

The question having been taken on the second portion of the third branch, viz:—"because it would be a violation of the public faith, unwise, impolitic, and dangerous to the Union"—it was also determined in the affirmative, yeas 127, nays 76.

The remaining portion of the resolution, for "assigning reasons," &c., was carried by the following vote, yeas 168 nays 6. So the entire resolution assented above was adopted.

It is to be hoped that the passage of this resolution will put a stop to the worse than useless discussion which has been going on, in the House, on the subject to which it relates.

TUESDAY, Feb. 9.

In Senate, a bill making appropriations in part for the service of the year 1836, was read a third time and passed.

Mr. Shepley offered the following resolution, which was adopted.

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of prohibiting by law all persons receiving salaries as officers or clerks to the two Houses, from acting as agents, or receiving in any manner, compensation for services rendered to persons, or to their agents having claims against the United States.

Mr. Benton's resolutions to provide for the defence of the country were then taken up. Mr. Leigh avowed his intention to vote for them. He thought the mediation of Great Britain would prove of no avail. He thought war still probable, certainly very possible, and he was willing to put the country in a condition to meet it. He objected to the words "carefully guarding," in the special message, on the ground that they would be considered an aggravation of the insult offered France! Mr. Brown commenced some remarks in reply, but before he concluded, the Senate adjourned.

In the House, Mr. Garland of Louisiana asked leave to enter on the Journals. The House granted leave to himself, Glascock of Ga. and Robertson of Va., against a clause in the abolition resolution of yesterday, but the House refused to suspend the rules for that purpose, yeas 81, nays 136.

The House went into Committee of the whole on the bill making appropriations for naval service, the question being on a motion of Mr. Combreling to strike out \$950,000 for repair of vessels in ordinary, and insert in lieu thereof \$2,000,000. Mr. C. withdrew his motion, stating that a separate bill would be offered to embrace the extra appropriations for the naval service. Mr. Bell of Tenn. opposed the bill, and moved to reduce the whole mass of appropriations one half. The motion was opposed by various members of all parties. Before any definite action was had the committee rose.

The following Select Committee was announced, on the subject of the abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia.

Messrs. Pinkney, of S. C.
"Hamer, of Ohio,
"Pierce, of N. H.
"Hardin, of Ky.
"Jarvis, of Maine,
"Owens, of Georgia,
"Mahlburg, of Pa.
"Droegdale, of Virginia, and
"Turrill, of New York.

The following Select Committee, of one member from each State, has been appointed upon the Pay and Mileage of Members of Congress and the Contingent Fund of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Rencher, "Fairfield,
"Bean,
"Grennell,
"Tacey,
"Pearce, of R. I.
"Allen, of V.
"W. K. Fuller,
"Dickerson,
"Helster,
"Morgan,
"Jennifer,

Mr. Manning, "Glascock,
"Underwood,
"Johnson, Ten,
"Whitely,
"Rippley,
"Reynolds, of Ill.
"Dickson,
"Lyon,
"Harrison, Missouri,
"Hopkins.

STENOGRAPHIC GLIMPSES OF CONGRESS.

Washington, Feb. 8.

When much is done, little need be said.—The Creation is recorded in one verse of ten words. As I reverence the record I shall imitate its brevity. Congress has done more in this one day, than all its declamation amounts to for ten weeks. A vote tells more than half a dozen speeches.

The House has devoted the day to yeas and nays on Mr. Pinkney's Slavery Resolutions, dividing and subdividing the propositions and reasons on their passage, and taking a vote on each.

The whole subject was referred to a Select Committee of nine with instructions, by a vast majority. Mr. Adams will probably be Chairman without requiring much instruction.

I had thought when Abolition was first laid on the table, it would prove a Surgeon's table, and as devoutly believed the subject was dead, as Joanna Southcotes disciples did that she was alive, when she was rotten. It has more lives than nine cats. It was then only in a trance; I hope it will now sleep the sleep of death; it has received a mortal wound, and, I trust, will soon rest in peace, and leave the country in peace.

Senate. Mr. Clayton finished his speech on Col. Benton's Resolutions; Judge White made one on the same subject, warning the world against the fatal gift of popularity in Chief Magistrates. His warning I fear, will be as little heeded as Cassandra's. Col. Benton made a short speech likewise, full of original views, which will meet the entire approbation by his countrymen.

The President submitted a Message on the mediation.

RE: EFFENDI.

Washington Feb. 9.

He who is not for us, is against us. He who is not the friend of his country is her foe; he who will not defend her, will betray her. Let no such man be trusted. A parent is ever guilty in the eye of a child; and his country, in the eye of the patriot; and perdition take that profligate, reprobate son, who would defend her, right for wrong!—It is the first law of nature, and of nations; and he who would violate it, would violate a sanctuary. If she has done much unseemly, we should go backwards, like the sons of the Patriarch, and cast the mantle of charity over her folly;—not betray it to the derision and advantage of her foes; they may like the treason, but will despise the traitor.

Every member of Congress who has sided with France in the present contest, history will set a mark upon, that the grave itself shall not erase. If he has rivalled the infamy of Cain, let him expect to reap his reward. Shall an American dare stand up in the very sanctuary of the laws and Constitution, and pronounce his country in the wrong, when every nation of Europe has pronounced her in the right? No!—He is not an American; he is a Traitor!—And a traitor has no country; he is the outlaw of all. In what category shall we class certain members of the Senate? Let them choose the horn of the dilemma, and—bring upon it!

Senate. Mr. Leigh delivered a speech to-day on Col. Benton's Resolutions. A Monticello in labor, has brought forth something less than a mouse—a "quid"—a pulling apology for France! Had it been a frog, she might have swallowed it; as it is, she can only chew upon it—the cud of sweet and bitter fancy! It was worthy of the Ambassador apud South Carolina, but would have damned any other man it would be charity to suppose him insane; and I am willing to believe it is above his capacity to be guilty. This is the only apology I can offer for him. He talked about the controversy with France being boy's play? Is he in his second childhood? His only choice of pleas, is dotage, or insanity; there is but little choice between them. I will allow him to plead double—he may take both. And here let me leave Mr. Leigh. Mr. Brown has the floor to-morrow on the same subject.

The House discussed the Military appropriation bills; but no vote was taken on them.

RE: EFFENDI.

Congress. In Senate on Monday 8th, the following Message respecting the mediation of Great Britain in the controversy between the U. S. and France, was received from the President:

To the Senate and House of Representatives:—The Government of Great Britain has offered its mediation for the adjustment of the dispute between the U. S. and France.

Carefully guarding that point in the controversy, which, as it involves our honor and independence, admits of no compromise, I have cheerfully accepted the offer. It will be obviously improper to resort even to the mildest measures of a compulsory character, until it is accepted of the mediation. I therefore recommend a suspension of all proceedings on that of my Special Message of the 16th of January last, which proposes a partial non-intercourse with France.

While we cannot too highly appreciate the elevated and disinterested motives of the offer of Great Britain, and have a just reliance upon the great influence of that power to restore the relations of ancient friendship between the U. S. and France, and know, too, that our own pacific policy will be strictly adhered to until the national honor compels us to depart from it, we should be insensible to the exposed condition of our country, and forget the lessons of experience, if we did not efficiently and sedulously prepare for an adverse result. The peace of a nation does not depend exclusively upon its own will, nor upon the beneficent policy of neighboring powers, and that nation which is found totally unprepared for the exigencies and

dangers of war, although it come without having given warning of its approach, is criminally negligent of its honor and its duty.

I cannot too strongly repeat the recommendation, already made, to place the seaboard in a proper state of defence, and promptly to provide the means for amply protecting our commerce.

ANDREW JACKSON.

Washington, Feb. 8, 1836.

The message was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.—Argus.

In Senate, Friday Feb. 6th. Mr. Benton from the select committee, to whom had been referred that part of the President's Special Message on the subject of military preparations, reported a bill authorizing the appropriations of various sums of money to the amount of nearly \$2,000,000, for the repair and construction of certain fortifications, viz:

For fortifications at Pensacola Bay, \$100,000; at Kennebec river, \$100,000; at Portland Harbor \$103,000; at Portsmouth, N. H. \$150,000; at Salem, Mass. \$100,000; at Provincetown, Cape Cod, \$50,000; at New Bedford, Mass. \$100,000 at Rondo Island, Narragansett Bay, \$50,000; at New London, Ct. \$100,000; for Fort Tompkins, Staten Island, N. Y. \$200,000; for a Fort at the debouché of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal, \$100,000; for fortifications at Cape Henlopen, \$150,000; a Fort at Solers Point Flats, \$150,000; Fort on Point Patience, Patuxent river; \$100,000; Fort on Cedar Point, Potomac River, \$100,000; a redoubt on Federal Point, \$12,000; fortifications at the mouth of St. Mary's river, \$50,000; a Fort at Barandas, \$50,000; for Fort St. Philip, \$77,800; for Steam Batteries, six hundred and sixty thousand dollars.

The site for the aforesaid works to be paid for out of the appropriations made for them respectively, and the President be authorized to make transfers from one head of appropriations for fortifications to that of another, for the like object, when in his opinion the public interest requires it.—Kennebec Journal.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The Postmaster General reported the deficit of the Department on the 1st of December last, at about \$476,077.

We learn, that if this deficit, there had been paid, prior to the first of the present month, would have been \$476,077.

Leaving of the old debt about \$29,698.

Of the \$205,000 reported as due to banks on the first of December, \$100,000 have been paid.

After making these payments, the Department had in bank on the first of the present month, \$88,294, being \$44,605 more than the sum on hand on the first of December last.

No doubt is now entertained that the entire bank debt, and as much of the other arrearages as may be presented, will be paid off in April next, and leave the Department a balance on hand of near \$100,000.

The number of Post Offices existing on the 1st July, 1835, was reported by the Postmaster General at 10,770. The number has since been increased, but probably does not now amount to 10,900.

A quarter ended on the 31st December last, and on the 30th of January last, a period of but 30 days, 9,530 of that quarter's accounts had been received at the Department, and the number due from offices in operation, was less than 1,000. Of this number, upwards of 8,000 were received within the first 20 days; and on the 6th inst. there were but about 500 outstanding.

When it is recollected that many of the Post Offices are so remote, that their accounts, if started on the first day of January, could scarcely have reached the Department at this time, and that the season of the year is the very worst for speedy transportation of the mail, it will be conceded that the promptitude of our Postmasters, as a corps, in rendering their accounts, can scarcely be exceeded, and is worthy of the highest admiration.

The same promptitude prevails in paying over the balances due, and to that circumstance the Department is mainly indebted for its sudden recovery from deep embarrassment.

From the first of April next, the Department will resume its onward course; and if there be no relaxation in its administration, will therefore forward advance with the steady and rapid advancement of our wonderful country.—Globe.

We would recommend to the attention of some of the Democratic members of the Pennsylvania Senate, whose votes it is said Mr. Biddle is sure of in support of his thirty-five million Bank, the following extract from Kienzi, Mr. Bolver's last work:—

"If there be a vile thing in the world, it is a politician advanced by partisans, not for the purpose of lighting his own order, but for the purpose of lighting the worst interests of theirs."

"Did I ever elevate a politician if he sympathized with plebeians? No, brother; should I be lifted above our condition, I would be raised by the arms of my countrymen, and not by their enemies."

From the Argus A. B.

U. S. BANK.

The Bill to extend the charter and enlarge the powers of the U. S. Bank, which had before passed the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, has passed to its third reading in the Senate of that State, 21 to 12—nine Democrats having been induced to betray the trust reposed in them! It does not contain any clause, as we supposed it did, authorizing the Legislature to repeal the charter—that clause having been stricken out in the House! The Bill will doubt-

less pass the Senate in its present shape. The hope of the people has failed. The Key State will be delivered over to a power more odious than the despotism of a hereditary monarch or a foreign Podesta—the unscrupulous control of a soulless corporation!

But the object of the Bank and its political allies is not confined to the single State of Pennsylvania. Having obtained foothold there, they propose to extend their dominion by the establishment of branches and agencies into other States, with the hope of finally wielding the destinies of this great republic, and asserting in practice, as its advocates now do in theory, the right of wealth to the reins of government. This scheme is distinctly avowed in N. Biddle's circular, and he holds the proxies of the Stockholders with authority to carry it into effect, by besieging the Legislatures of other States, as he has that of Pennsylvania. With the people it rests to decide whether he shall succeed. Let them look to it that they be not deceived nor betrayed.

OPINION of the Justices of the S. J. Court on the question, "If the Legislature shall abolish the punishment of death, will the crime of murder become, by the Constitution, a bailable offence?"

To the Honorable, the Legislature of the State of Maine:

The undersigned, Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court, have taken into consideration the question propounded by the Legislature, whether, if they should abolish the punishment of death, the crime of murder would become, by the Constitution, a bailable offence.

By the tenth section of the first article of the Constitution, it is provided, that all persons before conviction, shall be bailable, except for capital offences, where the proof is evident, or the presumption great. The answer to the question proposed, will depend upon the true construction of the term capital, used in this section. In its ordinary signification, when applied to other objects it has the sense of chief or principal. In reference to crime, it indicates those of the deepest character, by the commission of which the life of the offender is forfeited. That it should be construed to be a capital offence, for which a private capital punishment. We are not aware that a capital punishment, as understood by Jurists, or in the common acceptance of the term, has ever had any other meaning, than the taking of human life, in the regular administration of Justice, by the appointment of law, for the commission of crimes, for which this infliction is prescribed. It is this which gives to the perpetration of such crimes, and in the trial, by which they are judicially ascertained, a denotation of capital.

By the fifth section of the Act of February, 1823, in addition to an Act establishing the Supreme Judicial Court, provision is made for the trial of all indictments, which may be found for any capital offence, before at least two of the Justices. And by the sixth section of the Act of March, 1826, in addition to an Act regulating Judicial proceedings, one Judge, at any regular term of the Court, is authorized to cause any person indicted for any capital offence, to be arraigned; and if upon such arraignment he shall voluntarily plead guilty, to render judgment, and to pronounce upon him the sentence of the law. In these enactments, no explanation is given by the legislature of what constitutes a capital offence; but the term is used as having a definite, distinct, and well ascertained meaning. Nor has any doubt, as to the duties thereby imposed, been at any time entertained by the judicial department. Hence all offences, except such as incur a forfeiture of life, have, in virtue of the statute first cited, been deemed to be within the jurisdiction of the Court, when held by one Judge, subject to the revision of the whole Court, and in other cases, when exception is taken to his opinion, upon any question of law.

A consideration of the reasons, upon which the exception in that section of the Constitution may have been founded, it is apprehended, may be regarded as in accordance with the construction, before intimated. The object of bail, in criminal cases before conviction, is, to secure the appearance of the party charged, before the competent tribunal for trial. If the charge be for an offence, punishable with death, and the proof is evident or the presumption great, this object can be effected by nothing short of close and safe custody. To allow bail therefore in such cases, is to afford to the accused facilities for eluding public justice, of which they could not fail to avail themselves.

For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned would respectfully answer to the question propounded, that if the Legislature should abolish the punishment of death, the crime of murder, which is now a capital offence, would cease to be such; and being no longer capital, it would in their opinion before conviction, become a bailable offence by the Constitution.

NATHAN WESTON,
ALBION K. PARRIS,
NICHOLAS EMERY,

February 6, 1836.

PUNIC WAR.

We have to lay before our readers the first fruits of the Bank success, in passing its charter through the House of Representatives in the Pennsylvania Legislature. It is the speech of Mr. Mangum, in the Senate of the United States, on the 3d and 4th inst. in which Whigism has again elevated its standard, hurled defiance at democracy, proclaimed a Punic war, and avowed a perfect confidence in eventual success.

Six times, in the course of his speech, Mr. Mangum returned to the charge, and proclaimed the Punic war against the democracy; that war of extermination in which the Roman Senator

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ris, Tuesday, Dec. 29, Quarter to 4 P. A general report is in circulation that the have discovered a new plot against the King. The attempt was to have been from a house on the Quay d'Orsay, during King's passage to the Chamber. Three duals have been arrested. The cortege

Special messenger, from the St. Andrew, arrived at New York on Friday night has added to Washington with the intelligence.

Text of a letter from N. M. Rothschild, da-London, January 6th, to Messrs. J. L. Josephs & Co. of this city :

My message of your President has produced in Paris as favorable an effect as could be

old concern.—Married, on Thursday last, Cumberland, Md. Mr. Jacob Ice nheart to

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NEATLY EXECUTED AT THIS
OFFICE.

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